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For Immediate Release
June 19, 2008

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Two Convicted by Jury on Federal Drug and Social Security Fraud Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that, following a 5-day jury trial in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, which ended on June 18, 2008, **Anthony Caparotta**, 42, of Caribou, Maine, and **Raymond Fogg**, 54, of Winn, Maine, were found guilty of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribute Marijuana; **Fogg** was also found guilty of Social Security Fraud. **Caparotta** faces a possible sentence of up to forty years imprisonment, and up to a \$2 million fine, or both on the drug trafficking conviction. **Fogg** faces a possible sentence up to forty years imprisonment, and up to a \$1 million fine, or both on the drug trafficking conviction and up to 10 years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine, or both, on the Social Security Fraud conviction. The jury also found that a vehicle owned by **Caparotta** represented the proceeds of his drug trafficking activity.

The evidence presented during the trial revealed that between 2003 and 2006, **Caparotta** and **Fogg** conspired with Michael Pelletier and others to possess with intent to distribute and distribute marijuana. The evidence revealed that the marijuana had been smuggled into the United States from Canada across the St. John River in Northern Aroostook County by people working for Pelletier. Thereafter, the marijuana was distributed in multi-pound quantities to various re-distributors, including **Caparotta** and **Fogg**. Michael Pelletier, formerly of St. David, Maine, was convicted after trial in July 2007 and subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment. The evidence also revealed that during his involvement in the conspiracy, **Fogg** was receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration, yet failed to report his work to the Social Security Administration.

Upon learning of the convictions, Jeff Paula, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Boston Field Division of the Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration said: "The Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration is proud to have been associated with its fellow law enforcement partners in the investigation and prosecution of Fogg and Caparotta. The Office of the Inspector General takes seriously allegations of disability benefit fraud and will vigorously investigate and pursue all such allegations."

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Office of the Inspector General-Social Security Administration. United States Attorney Silsby also recognized the contributions of the Maine State Police, the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and the Madawaska Maine Police Department to the investigation.

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